

Summary of National Call to Service Program

NOTE: This summary is for informational purposes only. Please see your Military Recruiter for additional information on this program.

Eligibility Requirements for Incentives

There is a three-tiered service requirement to qualify for incentives under the National Call to Service program:

- 1. First, after completion of initial entry training, individuals must serve on active duty in a military occupational specialty designated by the Secretary of Defense for a period of 15 months.
- 2. After this, and without a break in service, these individuals must serve either an additional period of active duty as determined by the Secretary of Defense, or a period of 24 months in an active status in the Selected Reserve.
- 3. After completion of this period of service, and also, without a break in service, the remaining period of obligated service specified in the agreement will be served as follows:
 - * on active duty in the armed forces
 - * in the Selected Reserve
 - * in the Individual Ready Reserve
 - * in Americorps, or another domestic national service program jointly designated by the Secretary of Defense and the head of such a program

Any combination of the service referred to above may also be approved by the Secretary of the military department concerned pursuant to regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Defense and specified in the agreement.

Choice of Incentives

Individuals who participate in this new program have a choice of incentives as follows:

- 1. Cash bonus of \$5,000
- 2. Repayment of a qualifying student loan not to exceed \$18,000
- 3. Entitlement to allowance equal to the 3-year monthly chapter 30 rate for 12 months (\$1,034 effective Oct 1, 2005)

4. Entitlement to allowance equal to fifty percent of the less than 3-year monthly chapter 30 rate for 36 months (Fifty percent of \$840 effective Oct. 1, 2005)

Coordination with Montgomery GI Bill Benefits

The basic rule is that National Call to Service (NCS) participants are not entitled to additional assistance under chapter 1606 or chapter 30 benefits. However, if the NCS participant has eligibility under either of these chapters, he or she may be paid the amount of chapter 1606 or chapter 30 benefits minus any amounts paid under the NCS program. The education benefit options will be administered to the extent possible like chapter 1606 of title 10.

Period of the National Call to Service Program

The effective date of this program is October 1, 2003.

VA Benefits: 1-888-GI-BILL1 (442-4551)